

## **LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1: (canceled).

2 (original): A method for manufacturing grain-oriented silicon steel sheet with mirror-like surface having good iron loss properties, comprising the steps of:

preparing hot-rolled steel sheet by hot-rolling silicon steel slab comprising Si of 0.8 mass % to 4.8 mass %, C of 0.003 mass % to 0.1 mass %, acid-soluble Al of 0.012 mass % to 0.05% mass %, N of not more than 0.01 mass %, with the remainder substantially comprising Fe and unavoidable impurities after heating the slab at a temperature not higher than 1280°C,

reducing the hot-rolled sheet, as rolled or after annealing, to a final sheet thickness by applying one or two or more cold rollings, with intermediate annealing interposed,

forming an oxidized layer consisting mainly of silica on the surface of the cold-rolled steel sheet by implementing decarburized-annealing in an atmosphere gas of such degree of oxidation as to not form Fe-based oxides,

applying a nitriding treatment and

providing a mirror-like surface by finish-annealing the steel sheet applied by an annealing separator consisting mainly of alumina,

the method for manufacturing grain-oriented silicon steel sheet with mirror-like surface being characterized by,

controlling the amount of moisture carried in the annealing separator consisting mainly of alumina after application and drying of an aqueous slurry to not more than 1.5% and,

injecting an atmosphere gas having a degree of oxidation ( $\text{PH}_2\text{O}/\text{PH}_2$ ) of not lower than 0.0001 and not higher than 0.2 during finish-annealing.

3 (original): A method for manufacturing grain-oriented silicon steel sheet with mirror-like surface having good iron loss properties, comprising the steps of:

preparing hot-rolled steel sheet by hot-rolling silicon steel slab comprising Si of 0.8 mass % to 4.8 mass %, C of 0.003 mass % to 0.1 mass %, acid-soluble Al of 0.012 mass % to 0.05 mass %, N of not more than 0.01 mass %, Mn of 0.03 mass % to 0.15 mass %, S of 0.01 mass % to 0.05 mass %, with the remainder substantially comprising Fe and unavoidable impurities after heating the slab at a temperature not lower than 1320°C,

reducing the hot-rolled sheet, as rolled or after annealing, to a final sheet thickness by applying one or two or more cold rollings, with intermediate annealing interposed,

forming an oxidized layer consisting mainly of silica on the surface of the cold-rolled steel sheet by implementing decarburized-annealing in an atmosphere gas of such degree of oxidation as to not form Fe-based oxides, and

providing a mirror-like surface by finish-annealing the steel sheet applied by an annealing separator consisting mainly of alumina,

the method for manufacturing grain-oriented silicon steel sheet with mirror-like surface being characterized by,

controlling the amount of moisture carried in the annealing separator consisting mainly of alumina after application and drying of an aqueous slurry to not more than 1.5% and,

injecting an atmosphere gas having a degree of oxidation ( $\text{PH}_2\text{O}/\text{PH}_2$ ) of not lower than 0.0001 and not higher than 0.2 during finish-annealing.

4 (original): The method for manufacturing grain-oriented silicon steel sheet with mirror-like surface having good iron loss properties according to claim 2 or 3, characterized by,

injecting an atmosphere gas having a degree of oxidation ( $\text{PH}_2\text{O}/\text{PH}_2$ ) of not lower than 0.0001 and not higher than 0.2 into a temperature zone of 600°C to 1100°C during said finish-annealing.

5 (currently amended): The method for manufacturing grain-oriented silicon steel sheet with mirror-like surface having good iron loss properties according to ~~claim 2, 3, or 4~~, characterized claim 2 or 3 characterized by,

adding Sn or Sb or 0.03 mass % to 0.15 mass % to said steel.

6 (original): A method for manufacturing grain-oriented silicon steel sheet with mirror-like surface having good iron loss properties comprising the steps of:

preparing hot-rolled steel sheet by hot-rolling silicon steel slab comprising Si of 0.8 mass % to 4.8 mass %, C of 0.003 mass % to 0.1 mass %, acid-soluble Al of 0.012 mass % to 0.05 mass %, N of not more than 0.01 mass %, with the remainder substantially comprising Fe and unavoidable impurities after heating the slab at a temperature not higher than 1280°C,

reducing the hot-rolled sheet, as rolled or after annealing, to a final sheet thickness by applying one or two or more cold rollings, with intermediate annealing interposed,

forming an oxidized layer consisting mainly of silica on the surface of the cold-rolled steel sheet by implementing decarburized-annealing in an atmosphere gas of such degree of oxidation as to not form Fe-based oxides,

applying a nitriding treatment and

providing a mirror-like surface by finish-annealing the steel sheet applied by an annealing separator consisting mainly of alumina,

the method for manufacturing grain-oriented silicon steel sheet with mirror-like surface being characterized by,

controlling the amount of moisture carried in the annealing separator consisting mainly of alumina after application and drying of an aqueous slurry thereof to not more than 1.5% and

injecting an inert gas having a dew point of not higher than 0°C as the atmosphere gas during finish-annealing.

7 (original): A method for manufacturing grain-oriented silicon steel sheet with mirror-like surface having good iron loss properties comprising the steps of:

preparing hot-rolled steel sheet by hot-rolling silicon steel slab comprising Si of 0.8 mass % to 4.8 mass %, C of 0.003 mass % to 0.1 mass %, acid-soluble Al of 0.012 mass % to 0.05 mass %, N of not more than 0.01 mass %, Mn of 0.03 mass % to

0.15 mass %, S of 0.01 mass % to 0.05 mass %, with the remainder substantially comprising Fe and unavoidable impurities after heating the slab at a temperature not lower than 1320°C,

reducing the hot-rolled sheet, as rolled or after annealing, to a final sheet thickness by applying one or two or more cold rollings, with intermediate annealing interposed,

forming an oxidized layer consisting mainly of silica on the surface of the cold-rolled steel sheet by implementing decarburized-annealing in an atmosphere gas of such degree of oxidation as to not form Fe-based oxides, and

providing a mirror-like surface by finish-annealing the steel sheet applied by an annealing separator consisting mainly of alumina,

the method for manufacturing grain-oriented silicon steel sheet with mirror-like surface being characterized by,

controlling the amount of moisture carried in the annealing separator consisting mainly of alumina after application and drying of an aqueous slurry thereof to not more than 1.5% and

injecting an inert gas having a dew point of not higher than 0°C as the atmosphere gas during finish-annealing.

8 (original): The method for manufacturing grain-oriented silicon steel sheet with mirror-like surface having good iron loss properties according to claim 6 or 7, characterized by,

injecting inert gas having a dew point of not higher than 0°C as the atmosphere gas into a temperature zone of 600°C to 1100°C during said finish-annealing.

9 (currently amended): The method for manufacturing grain-oriented silicon steel sheet with mirror-like surface having good iron loss properties according to ~~claim 6, 7 or 8, characterized~~ claim 6 or 7 characterized by,

adding Sn or Sb of 0.03 mass % to 0.15 mass % to said steel.